

Director Wesley Denton attending the 48th annual Beaufort County Water Festival. I will join Geordie Madlinger, this year's Commodore, in this historic celebration of South Carolina's Lowcountry, which takes place in Beaufort's Waterfront Park.

Southern hospitality, Lowcountry culture, and family traditions are all on full display at each year's festivities. The Water Festival brings together young and old from all over the Lowcountry to enjoy dances and concerts, fine arts and crafts, an antique show, boat races, sporting events of all kinds, historic home and museum tours, the Blessing of the Fleet, a grand parade and a Lowcountry Supper with fresh local seafood.

Each summer I enjoy spending time at the lemonade social at the home of South Carolina State Representative Catherine Ceips and this year attending the Change of Command Ceremony hosted by Brantley and Helen Harvey. Also, I would like to commend Beaufort Mayor Bill Rauch, Greater Beaufort Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director Libby Barnes, and Beaufort County Council's Vice Chairman Skeet Von Harton for their hard work in making this year's festival a success.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of Beaufort County a wonderful 48th Annual Water Festival.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

YELLOWSTONE AMENDMENT TO INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week we will be voting on a spending bill for the Department of the Interior, the agency entrusted with the management and stewardship of our national parks. Unfortunately, this agency seems to have forgotten the stewardship portion of their mission.

The Department has decided to ignore 10 years of scientific study by the National Park Service, which concluded that the best way to protect and preserve Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, two of our greatest national treasures, would be to phase out the use of snowmobiles. They have decided to ignore the conclusion that emissions produced by snowmobiles force park rangers to wear respirators, adversely affect the health of visitors, and obscure visibility around the famous Old Faithful geyser.

This decision is an affront to the health of our national park system. That is why I strongly support an amendment to the Interior appropriations bill that will call for a phaseout of the use of snowmobiles in these parks.

Our national parks are irreplaceable. We need to act now so that we can ensure that they are protected for generations to come.

IRAQ AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today at 11 a.m. in Rayburn 2203 I will be hosting a briefing featuring two veteran intelligence officers to discuss the Bush administration's misuse of intelligence to justify the war in Iraq. The first speaker, Ray McGovern, is a 27-year veteran of the analytic ranks of the CIA who cofounded the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. The second speaker, Andrew Wilkie, was a senior intelligence analyst at Australia's Office of National Assessment until his resignation a week before the war.

The Bush Administration's recent blame shifting and back-pedaling on the Iraq uranium claim is profoundly embarrassing to this Nation. In an effort to protect the Bush presidency, Secretary Rumsfeld and National Security Advisor Rice have decided to blame CIA Director Tenet for not removing the "16 words" from the President's State of the Union address.

They, of course, have completely neglected to mention that the claim was disputed by Tenet in October, 2002, and that the Vice President's office learned of the forged evidence back in February of 2002. They have refused to divulge what transpired during Vice President CHENEY's multiple unusual visits to meet personally with CIA Iraq analysts, in which they reportedly felt pressured.

It is time for the American people to know the truth, and today at 11 a.m. in Rayburn 2203 we are going to continue on the path to get the truth.

THE TRUTH STILL MATTERS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, even here in Washington, D.C., the truth still matters. And despite what my colleague from Ohio just suggested, the truth is that Iraq had a program of weapons of mass destruction in the months and years prior to operation Iraqi Freedom. Saddam Hussein himself admitted in 1991 to the possession of 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons, and 412 tons of chemical weapons agents. The truth is President Clinton attacked Saddam Hussein in 1998 to confront his biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs. The truth is that Great Britain's intelligence community confirmed Iraq's efforts to obtain enriched uranium in Africa. The truth is it was that intelligence report that the President spoke of on this floor, and the truth is that Iraq had a weapons of mass destruction program and that Operation Iraqi Freedom was our finest

and noblest and most necessary hour in these recent times.

RESOLUTION DISMISSING ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST ED CASE OF HAWAII

Mr. NEY, from the Committee on House Administration, submitted a privileged report (H. Rept. 108-207) on the resolution (H. Res. 317) dismissing the election contest against Ed Case, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 317) dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Second Congressional District of Hawaii.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 317

Resolved, That the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Second Congressional District of Hawaii is dismissed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reserving my right to object, I yield to the distinguished chairman to explain the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut, our ranking member, for yielding.

I rise in support of House Resolution 317, a bill to dismiss an election contest filed against Representative ED CASE of Hawaii's Second Congressional District. There is bipartisan and complete agreement that the contest fails to state grounds sufficient to change the result of the election and therefore should be dismissed.

The contestant challenged the late Representative Patsy Mink in the 2002 Democrat primary, where he received 15 percent of the vote. The contestant argues that Representative Mink, who was seriously ill at the time of the primary and passed away 1 week later, should have been disqualified as a primary candidate, that he should have been declared the Democrat nominee by default and that as the nominee he therefore would have been the inevitable general election winner.

The Federal Contested Elections Act does not contemplate considering Notices of Contest that are based on the conduct of primary elections. Consequently, the committee concludes that the basis for the contestant's Notice of Contest falls outside the scope of the FCEA, and it was totally agreed to without any dissension.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I rise in support of the resolution reported unanimously by the Committee on House Administration to dismiss this frivolous election contest

against our colleague from Hawaii (ED CASE).

Representative CASE won a special election with 44 candidates on the ballot on January 4, 2003, by an overwhelming margin; and I want to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) for the bipartisan cooperation that has been demonstrated throughout this process.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H. Res. 317.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

RESOLUTION DISMISSING ELECTION CONTEST AGAINST BART GORDON OF TENNESSEE

Mr. NEY, from the Committee on House Administration, submitted a privileged report (H. Rept. 108-208) on the resolution (H. Res. 318) dismissing the election contest against BART GORDON, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 318) dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 318

Resolved, That the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee is dismissed.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), to explain the purpose of this resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

In keeping with the tradition of the dismissal of "Election Contest Day" here in the U.S. House, I rise in support of House Resolution 318, a bill to dismiss an election contest filed against

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GORDON) in Tennessee's sixth district.

The contestant, a candidate on the November 2002 ballot against the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), filed a notice of contest under the Federal Contested Elections Act contending that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) is unqualified for the office because the Constitution bars an incumbent from running for reelection without first resigning his or her seat and being an inactive member of the State Bar Association. The contestant makes no allegations of irregularities, fraud, or wrongdoing in respect to the election of the sixth congressional seat.

The committee finds that challenges to the qualifications of a Member-elect to serve in the Congress fall outside the purview of the FCEA, which was designed to consider allegations relating to the actual conduct of an election. Consequently, the committee concludes that the contestant's arguments regarding the qualifications of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) to serve in Congress do not constitute grounds sufficient to change the results of the election and, therefore, recommends that this election contest be dismissed.

Again, in the frame of the other resolution, we had full support on this and deem it to be frivolous.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I rise in support of this resolution reported unanimously by the Committee on House Administration, dismissed as a frivolous election contest against our colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON). The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) was reelected with 66 percent of the vote.

Again, I would like to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) for his fair-handed and fair-minded bipartisan cooperation that has been demonstrated throughout this process.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield again briefly under his reservation, I would like to thank our ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), and members of the committee for their work on these two issues.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the day today.

PERMITTING USE OF THE ROTUNDA TO COMMEMORATE THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF SAKAKAWEA PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA FOR DISPLAY IN STATUARY HALL

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 236) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the unveiling of the statue of Sakakawea provided by the State of North Dakota for display in Statuary Hall.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 236

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on October 16, 2003, for a ceremony to commemorate the unveiling of the statue of Sakakawea provided by the State of North Dakota for display in Statuary Hall. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 236. This legislation permits the use of the rotunda of the Capitol on October 16, 2003, for a ceremony to commemorate the unveiling of the statue of Sakakawea provided by the State of North Dakota.

In 1864, Congress enacted and created National Statuary Hall providing for the contribution of statues by the States. Each State is allowed to donate two statues to the Capitol of their most prominent citizens. North Dakota is one of three States which has not donated a second statue. Out of the 97 statues throughout the Capitol, there are only five women and three native Americans. North Dakota's current statue is John Burke, former Governor, U.S. Treasurer, and State Supreme Court Justice, which was donated in 1963.

The story of how the original statue of Sakakawea in North Dakota was